



Are we being “managed” into oblivion?

Our 2010 Annual Meeting (Aug 14 at Split Rock) is quickly approaching.. The program will feature expert speakers and discussion on topics concerning the health of Lake Superior and its watershed that have occupied us during the past year. We are facing a barrage of public relations campaigns designed to influence public opinion to prevent harmful practices and projects from being stopped for “technical” reasons.

“Facts” concerning economic benefits are selectively chosen by project developers early in the process. The messages are then controlled and repeated endlessly until the public “owns” them. Perception is managed in an attempt to make fiction a reality. The real technical issues are smothered as part of “media management”.

As an organization we attempt to focus on preventing pollution rather than on politics with the assumption that an informed public will make good decisions concerning pollution and its effect on public health. Unfortunately a recent poll of candidates running for Minnesota Governor shows that this isn’t working well for us. The candidates showed uniform, if in some cases guarded, support for a project as flawed as the proposed copper-nickel mine at PolyMet Northmet.

The fact that the project has been exposed as technically unacceptable by the US EPA is downplayed as part of the “process”. Acid Mine Drainage has emerged as being somehow “manageable” in NE MN unlike anywhere else in the world. A similar scenario evolved in the permitting of the deep water oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. The consequences have been disastrous.

Permitting decisions affecting pollution from untreated ballast water, asbestos-like fiber air emissions, watershed erosion and runoff as well as copper-nickel mining will be made in the coming year. This is only a partial list. Attend the annual meeting to become better informed on these topics and express your opinions. The robotic use of economics as the only litmus test for politicians in NE MN must be changed. Pollution prevention has a far more positive effect on the public in the long term.

Asian Carp advance

A live Asian carp has just been discovered on the Lake Michigan side of the electric barriers that were intended to be the last line of defense. And new findings show the carp are headed to Lake Erie through other water routes stemming from the Mississippi River system. These invasive fish risk destroying our way of life - threatening fishing, boating, native species, our economies and our ability to use and enjoy the lakes.

Despite the threat, the agencies are dragging their feet on a solution as the carp keep swimming toward our Lakes.

We cannot afford to wait any longer to act-there is too much at stake. We must permanently separate the Great Lakes and Mississippi River ecosystems to prevent entry of the carp and other invasive species.

If we fail to act now, the Great Lakes may never recover from this disaster. We suspect that you are just as concerned about the Asian carp as we are. Freshwater Future has been working on this important issue, to push more coordination and stop more fish from entering our lakes (see our latest media release and story below). Now we need your help.



We need to mobilize 1000's of people to hold our decision makers accountable and to demand adequate resources and coordination to solve the Asian carp problem. To do this, Freshwater Future is creating a variety of tools to involve and engage citizens including printing postcards for people to mail and creating an online petition where people can sign-on to this message, asking President Obama to use his authority to make necessary action happen. Freshwater Future and others will hand-deliver these messages to demonstrate the convictions of Great Lake residents.

Become a "fan" on Facebook

The Save Lake Superior Association has added to our internet presence by forming a Facebook "group". Facebook is different than a webpage, in that it is interactive. We encourage all our members to "join" our group and contribute to ongoing discussions. You can comment on wall posts or start a discussion to engage others, to learn or educate. You can upload photos or videos, or just read the postings others. Facebook is quickly becoming the communication tool of choice and has several hundred million users worldwide.



A closer look at the sulfide mining threat.

Thanks to the dedication of people in a number of environmental organizations who spent hours poring over the 1800 page draft of PolyMet's EIS, a large and disturbing number of facts have emerged that further support the pressing need to prevent the extraction of sulfide-bearing metals in Minnesota.

The LTV Steel Mining Company tailings basin owned by PolyMet, says researcher Elanne Palcich, member of the North Star Chapter's Mining Committee (and of SLSA), it is already leaching contaminants into the watershed. She also noted that the basin is unstable. More disturbing, she points out, is the fact that the EIS does not address the cumulative impacts of more than twenty metals that would be released by PolyMet into the watershed.

In her synopsis, the Iron Range writer gleaned these negative facts and others from the flawed EIS draft.

- ∞ The design of the 320 foot-high waste rock heaps does not lend itself to stability.
- ∞ PolyMet used computer modeling instead of the more accurate and realistic on-the-ground testing to present its position on water hydrology questions.
- ∞ The EIS, says Palcich, does not adequately or fully address impacts on wildlife and the loss of wildlife corridors.
- ∞ The cumulative effects of air quality were disregarded.
- ∞ Wetland mitigation plans do not comply with the Wetland Conservation Act.
- ∞ The vitally important issue of establishing firm plans for long term environmental safeguards such as the need for PolyMet's "pre-paid" treatment of polluted runoff water---lasting perhaps for centuries---was left open for future determination.

The Environmental Protection Agency was less than impressed with PolyMet's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. It was given the equivalent of a failing grade. The agency assigned it the rating of EU: environmentally unsatisfactory!

Apparently the analysis of the DEIS by citizens had an impact of some significance. The 1000 pages of comments submitted by Elanne Palcich and others were studied by the federal agency and the contents confirmed.

Tiny Beast of the Ballast Water



The number of invasive species in Lake Superior keeps growing though at a slower rate than when ocean ships first began dumping their ballast water they had carried here from ports around the world.

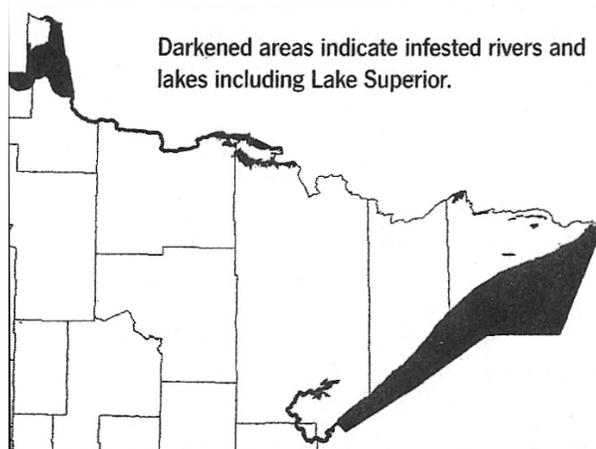
To help you to identify them and to learn of the harm

they cause in our waters, we will feature one of the exotics in each newsletter. In this issue it's the spiny water flea, a quarter-inch member of the zoo plankton clan that appeared first in Lake Ontario in 1982. Five years later people fishing in Lake Superior saw the caterpillar-like creature clinging to their lines and clogging the eyelets of their rods.

The DNR likens it to a white, black-spotted bristly glob of jelly. Some anglers, at first glance, thought they had picked up a tangle of monofilament line. If only it had been something that benign!

They eat other native species of zooplankton which is a major food source for native fish species, so much so, the decline or the disappearance of some zoo plankton is believed to be the reason certain Great Lakes fish species are gone.

As noted in this DNR map, the spiny water flea is now a menace along the entire North Shore and has invaded the Rainy River watershed as well.



www.savelakesuperior.org

Have you visited our webpage recently? Changes are ongoing and a few highlights include: **Google Earth** files In addition to the general google earth download, there are some new individual, stand alone files, such as, [MN Major watersheds](#), [St Louis River streams](#), [Cloquet River streams](#), [Lake Superior South streams](#), [Lake Superior minor watersheds](#) Google earth is a map like you've never seen before! **contact/subscribe** This button now features paypal subscription options such that credit card or paypal payment can now be used to update your membership. One-time donations or lifetime memberships are also available. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome.

Lest we forget....

We feel it's necessary from time to time to be reminded of the nine major chemicals of concern designated for zero discharge in the Lake Superior Basin, their sources and harm to humans and aquatic life. The International Joint Commission cited these nine from a list of hundred now in our water because there is sufficient evidence of their persistent, toxic and bioaccumulative nature to warrant immediate action.

- Chlordane
- Dieldrin
- DDT (Dichloro-diphenyl-trichloro-ethane)
- Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)
- Mercury
- Octachlorostyrene (OCS)
- PCB's (polychlorinated biphenyls)
- 2,3,7,8 TCDD
- Toxaphene

"Pulling the plug" is now the law!



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Beginning July 9th, removing the drain plugs when towing a vessel to or from a water source is no longer voluntary. It's the law.

"When you are on the road you need the drain plug out to show you are complying with the law," said Jay Rendall, invasive species specialist for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The DNR says it won't issue tickets immediately for violations. "New enforcement of the law will be educational for now, which means no fines for transporting a boat with the plug still in." But the DNR said that will eventually change.

False alarm

Emergency responders were called to Agate Bay, along Minnesota's North Shore recently to what a fisherman reported as a fuel spill. The Presque Isle had just entered the port and another had just left, and both were likely suspects. 4000' of containment booms were fully deployed when the alleged fuel spill was determined to be nothing more than taconite dust, floating upon the calm morning waters. Naturally existing conditions, such as pollen, can sometimes imitate a fuel slick, but the "heavier than water" taconite dust phenomena was rare, and the dead calm waters likely contributed. Since no fuel was present, emergency personnel soon left the scene to resume normal activities.



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It's good to know we have such dedicated teams who can quickly respond to such events, though it's a bit

troubling that a *normal* discharge of 10,000,000 gallons of infested ballast water from a 1000' ore carrier into Lake Superior's waters is no cause for any alarm.

A new sign adorns the Agate Bay boat launch, appropriately warning boaters of Minnesota's laws designed to prevent the spread of these infested waters (including the VHS virus) to inland waters. It's unfortunate there is so little attention given to the continuous 10,000,000 gallon replenishment of invasives to Lake Superior's ports.

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Your renewal date appears on the mailing label.

Please send us your change of address when applicable.

New Membership Dues

Please check your Newsletter mailing label for expiration date. If the date is 2009 or lower, it needs to be updated. Membership dues increased January 1, 2010.

Repeat of new dues structure:

ALL EXCEPT LIFETIME ARE PER PERSON PER YEAR.

\$10 Fixed income	\$50 Sustaining	\$200 Lifetime
\$20 General	\$100 Benefactor	(per person)

The Lifetime option is only available to new members or members whose label is 2010 or later.

Please designate your choice when you renew.

We appreciate your interest as well as your support.